

(GODSEND ONLINE)

Ween - "Shinola Vol.1" CD - Dean and Gene Ween (not their true names) have been at it for many years now, even flirting with mainstream success some time back. This collection of odd and rare cuts presents the guys at their more deliriously silly and, alternately, at their most poignant. WEEN move stylistically all over the map, and do it all with conviction and with no apologies. The weird and nonsensical joke tracks like the party-favorite 'Big Fat Fuck' catch the attention initially, then the boys change gears and dive into the straight-forward Elvis Costello-like pop of 'Gabrielle'. The psychedelic sci-fi space rock of 'The Rift' follows a few cuts later, leading into the funky 'Monique The Freak', which somehow channels both Prince and George Clinton, simultaneously. The starry-eyed popsong naivete of 'Someday' shows a more sensitive, indie rock side, and that closes out this 12-song work of twisted musical genius. If you have a well-developed sense of humor, as well as an appreciation for rock in all it's forms and variations, you can, and should, 'get' the magic that is WEEN. (Chocodog/MVD Music)